



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203-1635

MAR 25 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Minutes of the November 6, 2002, Meeting

The Dependents Education Council (DEC) met on November 6, 2002, at the Webb Building, at 4040 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The meeting was hosted and chaired by Mr. Charles S. Abell, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management Policy). A listing of member representatives is attached.

DEC MEETING OVERVIEW:

Dr. Joseph D. Tafoya, Director, Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) and Executive Secretary, DEC, opened the meeting. Mr. Abell provided opening comments and asked the members to introduce themselves.

There were no changes or corrections offered to the minutes from the June 25, 2002, DEC. The meeting proceeded with discussions of previous DEC issues including:

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING:

No Child Left Behind:

Dr. Tafoya introduced Dr. Beth Middlemiss for this informational briefing. Slides were in the meeting notebook. He stated that though DoDEA is not required to follow the guidelines of the legislation entitled "No Child Left Behind", that DoDEA will continue to monitor the legislation to ensure that we stay current with its requirements. This will enable all of our students to transition to any state within the nation with no problem.

Dr. Middlemiss explained the purpose of the legislation is to have all students in the nation proficient in reading and math by 2013. DoDEA students will reach this goal by 2006 – 7 full years ahead of the requirement.

Following the presentation it was noted at the ACDE meeting in September, the decision was made that DoDEA would devise a way to give our schools scores. The concern is that a school will get rated as first and another school as last. Although the need exists to evaluate the progress, we need to be careful not to put schools in a category that would rate them as lowest when indeed DoDEA schools are already achieving better than state schools. This rating could



quickly become a public assessment. DoDEA will bring decisions in ranking students and schools to the DEC for discussion.

DISCUSSION AND BRIEFINGS OF PREVIOUS DEC ISSUES:

Budget & POM Update:

Irma Finocchiaro, DoDEA Comptroller provided an update on the FY 2003 and the FY 2004-09 Program Objectives Memorandum Submission (POM). Slides were in the DEC notebook. The briefing began with a breakout of demographics of DoDEA students and schools. She provided a summary breakout of funds allocated to Operations & Maintenance, Procurement, and MILCON. Ms. Finocchiaro explained the distribution of funds related to draft PBD 623. The only funding that remains in DoDEA is \$1 million designated for Math Teacher Leadership. The remainder is executed elsewhere.

During the discussion of FY 2004-09 POM and the funding for 114 Full Time Equivalent's (FTE) for Special Education, Dr. Tafoya explained that most of the positions are allocated to Category 4 schools. DoDEA will need to look at how to distribute money to minimize the impact on schools from any budget cuts. He went on to explain that is difficult to reestablish school programs in May when monies are typically restored. He will meet with the Area Directors to determine the best way to resolve this issue.

MILCON Status:

Ms. Fitzgerald presented DoDEA's plans for the construction and upgrade of facilities. Slides were in the meeting notebook. During the discussion of the impact of draft PBD 371, Mr. Abell inquired as to whether the construction costs associated with re-stationing would be the responsibility of the services. The answer was yes.

Regarding the funding for the Guam South Elementary/Middle School, Mr. Aiken asked if PACFLT would be responsible for the full bill or just the re-stationing portion of the bill. Mr. Abell commented that this is an OSD Comptroller decision.

Dr. Tafoya stated that it was understood that DoDEA would be responsible for general improvements. This is a new policy and at this point DoDEA has a neutral position. The Navy will have to reclama. He went on to say that the Guam facilities are in poor shape and would be unsafe during an earthquake. Our interest is to get the facility built as soon as possible. Dr. Tafoya requested a meeting to be held the following week in Korea to discuss the new construction which has been approved.

Teacher Transfer Program:

Dr. Tafoya briefed the group on the status of the Teacher Transfer Program. Slides were included in the meeting notebook. This program was designed to facilitate more teacher transfers into and out of hardship areas. A very successful pilot program, which moved 359

educators, kicked off on April 8 and continued through May 31. Additionally, there were a large number of nurse openings created by the program allowing more spouses to benefit. The program was started earlier this year and moved more teachers desiring relocation despite a budget cut. However, offerings of early retirement and resignation incentives may not be possible because of decreased funding.

High School POM Initiative:

Dr. Middlemiss updated the group on the progress that DoDEA has made with the High School POM initiative which is funded for 114.5 million dollars to include 200 staffing positions. Slides were in the meeting notebook.

During the High School Symposium in October 2001, it was decided to add focus to the 56 small high schools in DoDEA, with the objective of increasing resources available to those students.

After the presentation there was a question regarding rigor and updates in reference to advanced placement issues. Dr. Middlemiss answered that DoDEA is putting policies in place for School Year 2003-04. This was followed by an inquiry as to whether or not our students would be required to take the Advanced Placement (AP) test. DoDEA will require that students take the AP tests, and we will pay the fees. Students who do not take the test will not receive a weighted grade.

DDESS Transfer Study:

Mr. Mike Lynch briefed the group on the status of the DDESS Transfer study. This study is an objective and impartial evaluation of 58 DDESS schools in the continental United States, and feasibility of transfer to individual local education agencies (LEAs). Slides were in the meeting notebook.

A question arose regarding the quality of education in schools off base. Mr. Molino commented that currently 2/3 of our families live off base and use local schools. He stated that as a result of the study we might be able to influence even better schools outside the gate.

One of the members stated that the DoDEA schools are a major Quality of Life attraction for families and asked if the study considers the quality of education provided by the local schools. Mr. Abell answered that data on the quality of the schools outside the bases will be considered. This will include an analysis of end of year status of the Local Education Activities.

Dr. Tafoya said that quality of life may be worth more than the cost of providing the education to our children. He went on to say that decisions based on the study results will not be made solely on the proposed cost of providing services.

United Kingdom (UK) Tuition Policy:

At the June 2002 DEC meeting, the Army requested a change to the August 17, 2000, memo which states "No allowance will be provided to defray the educational expenses of dependents of eligible sponsors stationed overseas in areas where local, tax-supported schools provide an educational program in the English language." Mr. Mike Lynch briefed the group on the current status of the number of students affected and the cost to provide tuition for them. DoDEA would require outside agency funding if a policy of reimbursement was adopted for UK dependent education tuition costs for personnel living outside a DoD school area.

After discussion by the group it was agreed that this policy would remain unchanged and the issue would be closed.

Summer School Legislation:

Mr. Mike Lynch led the discussion on Summer School Legislation. He advised the group that while we anticipate approval of this legislation (both House and Senate have passed bills authorizing), we have no additional funding for implementation. DoDEA favors the Senate proposal version.

Dr. Middlemiss commented that DoDEA will pay for summer school costs out of district resources. Summer school is an extension of our offerings.

Summer School Implementation Plan:

Dr. Middlemiss presented DoDEA's plans to implement summer school. She briefed the options discussed by the DoDEA superintendents in their October 2002 meeting. Dr. Middlemiss advised the group of several on-line summer school courses developed through the School Assisted Integrated Learning (SAIL) initiative that will be piloted in June 2003.

Mr. Abell emphasized that the DEC asked for Summer School Legislation. He stated that DoDEA will conduct summer school if the legislation is passed. The first year won't be as good as the second year, but DoDEA will continually build on the program.

Home School Commanders' Toolbox:

Ms. Maxanne Witkin discussed the Dependent Education Toolbox for Overseas Installation Commanders. The Toolbox was developed in response to the DEC expressing ongoing concern about the need for a comprehensive DoD policy addressing home schooling, including installation commander responsibilities.

During the discussion it was stated that a commander does not have the authority to question the quality of a home school program. Addressing the hypothetical issue of a 9 year-old that is at the arcade all day long, it was suggested that a commander could mandate a policy that no school age dependents are allowed to be at specified facilities during certain hours or days.

Dr. Tafoya stated the Home Schooling Legal Defense Association states that you must treat all children the same. Ms. Witkin said that the toolbox will be ready for distribution before the next DEC meeting.

It was noted that this policy is only applicable to overseas installations. Stateside schools are handled differently.

Home School Policy Memorandum:

Mr. Mike Lynch discussed the Home Schooling Policy Memorandum. DoDEA has written a new policy memorandum which reflects the new legislation. This legislation allows dependents who are educated in a home school setting, but who are eligible to enroll in a school of the defense dependents' education system, to use or receive auxiliary services without being required to either enroll in a DoDEA school or register for a minimum number of DoDEA courses. The policy memorandum was signed and distributed during the meeting.

90-Day Rule Extension:

Mr. Robert Ray discussed 90-day rule extensions with the group. Off-line housing renovation (approximately 300+) is decreasing the student population of the schools and some of these schools are being reduced several work years for teachers as a result. If the current 90-day wait list could be extended to a 180-day rule, installations could keep schools at the current capacity.

Mr. Abell stated that he will write and distribute an interim memo, and then formalize the issue at a later date. The group approved of this paper as stated.

Appropriated Fund/Nonappropriated Fund:

Mr. Mike Lynch presented this paper to the group on behalf of several commands. This proposal is to change the enrollment status of dependents of fulltime locally hired AF and NAF employees to space required, tuition-free status. A waiver recently approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (FMP) allows the students to attend DoDDS schools in the space available, tuition-free category. DoDEA only has the authority to staff and fund for students in the space required, tuition-free (category 1), or space available, tuition-paying (category 2).

Should a waiver be approved to grant dependents of full-time locally hired AF and NAF employees the ability to attend DoDDS in a space required, tuition-free status, DoDEA would be able to staff and fund teachers to meet this requirement.

Mr. Lynch also stated that 82 children could not enroll during this school year. MILCON '07 will take care of the problem of lack of facilities in Korea. The issue of special education needs for AF/NAF is unknown at this time.

Contractors:

Mr. Lynch led the discussion on the issue of DoD supporting the dependents of contractor personnel. These students are currently in the category of space available, tuition-paying; but in order for DoDEA to be able to budget for expansion of facilities the category must be space required, tuition paying.

During the discussion it was clarified that only the children of U.S. citizen contractors are eligible for educational benefits under this provision. There was also discussion as to what other organizations' employees might be included in this category. Mr. Abell stated that this issue is for the FY 2004 ULB, and there is time for the Services to work the associated issues before the ULB. He went on to say that the AF/NAF issue enjoys a higher priority than this issue.

It was asked if our current tuition charges include MILCON. Ms. Finocchairo stated that it does not.

Gen Begert asked if all of the commands were aware of the future requirements for contractors. DoDEA agreed to ask each command for information to discuss at the next DEC.

NEW ISSUES:

Security Attendants on Buses:

Ms. Fitzgerald discussed this issue with the group. In FY 2003, Defense Emergency Response funds will be transferred to DoDEA to establish and operate a Bus Security Attendant program for the added protection of students. To provide spouse employment opportunities, Area Directors will have the flexibility to hire spouses locally or to contract for Bus Security Attendants. DoDEA expects to hire approximately 1200 part-time employees and has developed a standardized position description at the GS-04 level.

Communications on Force Basing:

Dr. Tafoya led the discussion for communications on force basing and stressed the importance of DoDEA learning of plans at the earliest time possible. This communication is vital as changes in force structure can have significant impacts on the schools. Attendees were provided a list of small schools and asked to provide input on any Service plans that would be pertinent.

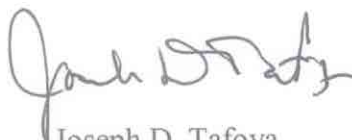
Proposed DEC Meeting Schedule:

There was discussion regarding the idea of reducing meetings of the DEC to once a year. Dr. Tafoya offered a single meeting in November as an alternative to the proposed schedule. Gen. Begert commented that the recent DEC meetings offered the best communication that he has seen between DoDEA and the services. He stated that the meetings should remain at two times per year. The proposed schedule was approved with the Spring DEC on June 25, 2003, and the PreDEC meeting for May 21, 2003.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Dr. Tafoya pointed out the recommended dates for the upcoming meetings noted on the agenda and thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Tafoya", written in a cursive style.

Joseph D. Tafoya
Executive Secretary

Attachment:
As stated

DEPENDENTS EDUCATION COUNCIL (DEC)
MEMBERS/ATTENDEES
November 6, 2002

<p>General Eric K. Shinseki, USA <i>Chief of Staff, U.S. Army</i></p> <p>Attendee: Brigadier General Robert L. Decker, USA Commander, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center</p>	<p>Admiral Vern Clark, USN <i>Chief of Naval Operations</i></p> <p>Attendee: No Flag level Attendee Representative Captain Edward Gantt, USN Executive Assistant to Director of Naval Education and Training</p>
<p>General John P. Jumper, USAF <i>Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force</i></p> <p>Attendee: Major General Peter U. Sutton, USAF Director of Learning and Force Development, Deputy Chief of Staff Personnel, Headquarters United States Air Force</p>	<p>General James L. Jones, USMC <i>Commandant of the Marine Corps</i></p> <p>Attendee: Mr. Michael P. Downs, SES Director Personal and Family Readiness Division</p>
<p>General Tommy R. Franks, USA <i>Commander, U.S. Central Command</i></p> <p>Attendee: No Attendee</p>	<p>Admiral Edmund P. Giambastiani, Jr., USN <i>Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command</i></p> <p>Attendee: No Attendee</p>
<p>General James T. Hill, USA <i>Combatant Commander, U.S. Southern Command</i></p> <p>Attendee: Brigadier General Charles Stenner, USAF Acting Director, Strategy, Policy and Plans U.S. Southern Command</p>	<p>Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, USN <i>Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe</i></p> <p>Attendee: Rear Admiral Michael R. Scott, USN Deputy for Resources/Readiness</p>
<p>Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN <i>Commander, U.S. Pacific Command</i></p> <p>Attendee: Major General Ronald L. Lowe, USA Chief of Staff U.S. Pacific Command</p>	<p>General Joseph W. Ralston, USAF <i>Commander, U.S. European Command</i></p> <p>Attendee: Rear Admiral Michael R. Scott, USN Deputy for Resources/Readiness</p>

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<p>General William J. Begert, USAF <i>Commander, Pacific Air Forces</i></p> <p>Attendee: General William J. Begert, USAF <i>Commander, Pacific Air Forces</i></p>	<p>General Montgomery C. Meigs, USA <i>Commanding General</i> <i>U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army</i></p> <p>Attendee: Colonel (P) Russell L. Frutiger, USA USAREUR/ODCSPER</p>
<p>General Gregory S. Martin, USAF <i>Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe</i></p> <p>Attendee: No Flag Level Attendee Representative: Col Ed Kringer, USAF Director of Personnel</p>	<p>Lieutenant General Raymond P. Ayres, Jr., USMC <i>Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic</i></p> <p>Attendee: Major General David Mize, USMC Commanding General, MCB Camp Lejeune</p>
<p>Lieutenant General James L. Campbell, USA <i>Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific</i></p> <p>Attendee: Brigadier General Montague Winfield, USA Assistant Division Commander (Support) 25th Infantry Division</p>	<p>Lieutenant General Tim Kinnan, USAF <i>U.S. Military Representative, NATO Headquarters</i></p> <p>Attendee: No Flag Level Attendee Representative: CDR Tim LaBelle, USN Brussels American School Advisory Committee Chairman</p>
<p>Lieutenant General E. B. Hailston, USMC <i>Commander, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific</i></p> <p>Attendee: Brigadier General Timothy R. Larsen, USMC Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Japan</p>	<p>Admiral Walter F. Doran, USN <i>Commander, Pacific Fleet</i></p> <p>Attendee: Mr. Michael G. Akin, SES Executive Director, Shore Installations Management CINCPACFLT N46A</p>